

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD
Marina Beach Hotel "Marriott"
4100 Admiralty Way
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
January 17, 2003
LICENSING AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Members Present

Sherry Washington, M.A., Chairperson
Vivian Shannon, M.A.
Bruce Gerratt, Ph.D.
James Till, Ph.D.
Alison Grimes, AuD
Marcia Raggio, Ph.D.

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Candace Raney, Staff Analyst
Lori Newman, Staff Analyst
George Ritter, Staff Counsel

Board Members Present

Rebecca Binge, M.A.

Guests Present

Frederick Jacobs, Audiologist
Dennis Van Vliet, American Board of Audiology, California Academy of Audiology

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Washington called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

III. Review Laws and Regulations Regarding Board-Approved Professional Training Programs Awarding Advanced Degrees in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Related Regulations for Advertising the Professional Degree

Ms. Del Mugnaio began the discussion by introducing the issue of board approved educational institutions provided for in California Code of Regulations Section 1399.152.

The regulations specify that in order to be eligible for licensure in California, an individual must possess at least a master's degree issued by an educational institution approved by the Board or its equivalent. The regulations further define an "institution approved by the board" as one that is accredited by the accrediting body of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association or has met the candidacy requirements for such accreditation through ASHA.

Ms. Del Mugnaio went on to state that the related advertising regulations found in CCR Section 1399.156.4 provides that in order for a licensed individual to advertise an advanced professional degree in speech-language pathology and/or audiology, the degree must be issued by an educational institution approved by the Board pursuant to CCR Section 1399.152.

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is restricted by its approval through the U.S. Department of Education from accrediting training programs that confer advanced professional degrees not intended for entry-level practice. Therefore, those programs which require a conferred master's degree and/or a professional license as a prerequisite for admission to the program, are not accredited by ASHA.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the reference in the regulation to institutional approval verses program approval provides latitude for the Board to recognize those institutions where ASHA accredited programs are housed as meeting the requirements in regulation. She explained that it appears that the intent of the existing regulations was to identify ASHA's accreditation standards, including that of regional accreditation.

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the other avenue available to individuals and/or institutions to obtain Board approval is to request an in-house Board review of the institution and program offerings.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that it has come to her attention that there are currently programs that do not hold regional accreditation but do offer advanced professional degrees, specifically AuDs and/or Ph.Ds in the fields of audiology and/or speech-language pathology.

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the current issue facing the Board involves professionals who are advertising their advanced degrees that may have been obtained many years ago from institutions that do not meet the requirements in the regulations.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the Board is currently pursuing enforcement cases that involve misrepresentation of a professional degree. She explained that the Board needs to take action to ensure that the regulations in place will provide a legally defensible position, if challenged. In addition, the regulations acknowledge one accrediting national association that has indicated that they are not in a position to accredit advanced degree programs. She stated that the Board has a couple of options regarding this issue. The first includes amending the regulations to clarify the definition of a “board approved educational institution” as an institution that holds regional accreditation and offers a master’s level ASHA accredited program. Alternatively, the Board has the authority to independently review and approve advanced degree programs. However, the Board does not have the resources to take on such an arduous charge.

The Committee discussed at length all options for addressing this issue.

M/S/C: Till/Grimes

The Committee voted to recommend to the Board that the Executive Officer and Board Legal Counsel work together to amend the Board’s regulations, California Code of Regulations Section 1399.152, to define “a board approved educational institution” as one that holds regional accreditation and that offers an ASHA accredited training program.

Mr. Frederick Jacobs addressed the Committee to provide information relative to his particular situation in that Mr. Jacobs obtained a Ph.D. degree from Claremont University completing his coursework in the discipline of audiology. However, because Claremont University did not have a specific audiology Ph.D. program, Mr. Jacobs was issued a Ph.D. in education. According to currently regulatory requirements, Mr. Jacobs must list his Ph.D. with the indicator of education following the degree designation.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he understands the Board’s mandate to protect the public. However, he feels that advertising his Ph.D. without the education indicator is not a consumer protection issue. He explained that he feels his professional degree is diminished in the view of both his professional colleagues as well as his patients.

The Committee explained to Mr. Jacobs that his particular situation is specifically addressed in regulation and the Board is not currently proposing to amend that portion of the regulations. The Committee recommended that Mr. Jacobs address the matter with the educational institution and petition for a change in the issuance of his Ph.D. degree to specify audiology as opposed to education.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he has contacted the university to address the matter but has yet to identify a specific resolution.

IX. Assign Task Force to Review The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's New Certification Standards for Speech-Language Pathology (2005) and Audiology (2007) and Report on the Impact on State Regulation

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the Board needs to establish a taskforce that will be responsible for review of The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's new certification standards for speech-language pathology and audiology.

She stated that the taskforce would be responsible for gathering data and information to report to the Board on the impact the new standard will have on State regulation and whether the current equivalency standards provided for in the law will still be relevant.

Ms. Raggio and Mr. Till volunteered to serve on the taskforce.

M/S/C: Grimes/Gerratt

The Committee voted to assign Ms. Raggio and Mr. Till to review ASHA's new certification standards for speech-language pathology and audiology and provide a report to the Board regarding the impact of these new standards on State regulation.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Washington adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer